

BRIEF AND PLAN

FOR THE FORMATION OF A

National Liberty and Commercial League



BY

HONORABLE EDWARD T. CAHILL

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

- I. The name of this Association is the *National Liberty and Commercial League*.
- II. The purposes of the Association are:
 - a. The preservation of the Nation as the Home of the native and foreign-born inhabitants of the United States, the Emporium for the World's commerce, and the preservatory of friendship for all nations.
 - b. The perpetuation of American Institutions—a free press, religious freedom, right of locomotion, and the maintenance of the Constitution of the United States.
 - c. The procuring of a liberal land policy on the part of the Government and the Conservation of Natural Resources for the common good.
 - d. Assisting in the passage of needful legislation that will encourage immigration to this country with no restriction, save alone those for public health, morality, and the safety of the Nation.
- III. The work of the Association shall be under the control of an Executive Committee, which shall have the power to increase and fill all vacancies in its membership; elect all officers of the Association; establish committees in other cities of the United States and foreign countries, and do all acts and things necessary and proper to promote the object of the Association.
- IV. Any person may become a member of the Association by invitation of the Executive Committee. No member shall be required to pay an entrance fee or annual dues, but any member may make a voluntary contribution to the work of the Association.
- V. The Executive Committee may invite representatives of foreign governments and other foreign persons of distinction to become an Honorary member of the Association.

Liberty of Nationalities—The United States of America, the Home of the Native and Foreign Born.

The preservation of American Institutions demands the cultivation of kindred spirits and brotherly love between the native born and foreign born of our inhabitants, always remembering that "The present people of the United States have themselves been immigrants into the fresh Continent within generations still recent. It is the mission of the United States to spread freedom and democracy throughout the world by teaching as many men and women as possible in freedom's largest home how to use freedom rightly through practice in liberty under law" (Dr. Charles W. Eliot).

This can only be accomplished by co-operation by kind words, good cheer, and noble example on the part of the native born, with his fellow-man by overlooking his lack of education and his inability to speak and understand the English language, remembering that—"The best test of the value of the immigrant (foreigner) lies in the fact that a working man and his wife have the ambition to better condition so strongly implanted that they save sufficient money for their passage to settle in land where 'one man's privilege is every man's right' " (Andrew Carnegie).

We should also remember that, "If the immigrant is industrious and thrifty, he will make a useful citizen whether he be literate or illiterate. The educated schemer is in more ways than one more dangerous than the honest workman, even though he be illiterate" (J. Cardinal Gibbons).

Nor should we forget that our unusual and unsurpassed growth in population, wealth, and power, has had for its success "*the open door*" to the immigrant from all nations—his welcome here, so pronounced he soon began to sympathize with his new home, and became companionable to such a degree that we overlooked his education—soon his pride was "that he was one of us." His laudation of our country, his love for our institutions, and his willingness at all times to take up arms in its defense is shown on every battlefield by his shedding his blood, and crimsoning every field from Bunker Hill, 1776, to that of San Juan in 1898. His knowledge of his race and birthplace

have but added to his greater pride in the future greatness of this Republic.

So here this organization as one of its missions stands ready at all times to do and perform every kind and kindred act necessary and essential, saving at all times the self-respect of the foreigner, for assimilation and education and the raising to the highest standards of morality these strangers among us, and thus will we reach the highest and noblest aspirations of true Americanism.

The accomplishment of this end can only be attained by the correlation and bringing together of all organizations or societies, these, however, to retain their separate and individual existence, be they patriotic, benevolent, educational, or otherwise, which seek "Man's uplifting," without distinction as to race, creed, or those who profess no creeds, *in one harmonious blending or union*, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., where the signal of danger may be given by one stroke to every member of these organizations whose membership will extend into millions.

This union of many in one alone can destroy un-American principles, and speaking as this Organization shall speak, non-partisan, its sentiments will strike a receptive chord in the hearts of those millions so brought together by this common cause, and the strain of the human voice arising from this concourse of people shall be felt not only by the Executive of this Nation, but by the Congress of the United States and the nations of the world. The bonds of friendship and patriotism are inseparable and indestructible, and when all else fail, these alone will guide the Nation to its onward course of real progress and power—*The friend of all humanity, peace, and good will for all Nations.*

Liberty of Commerce.

Not only to the immigrant class is this Nation indebted for its growth and development, but also for its greater growth and development of its foreign and import trade. This growth far exceeds that of any Nation in the world. At every port, and under every flag, in every clime, as the ship moors to the dock, or unloads her cargo, you will find packet after packet, box after box, labeled "From the United States of America."

We exported to foreign lands our produce of the value of \$2,013,000,000. Not only did we export this large amount of merchandise, but we also imported to this land goods to the value of \$1,557,000,000. Thus have we become the greatest commercial Nation of the world in value of commodity exported and imported; we far exceed that of the Mistress of the Sea, England.

The United States, the Preservatory of Friendship for all Nations.

Our future growth, therefore, largely depends upon our conduct to those with whom we sell or exchange our goods. This commercial activity, this commingling with the foreign races and the exchange of commerce, means that the merchant ship shall soon supplant the dreadnaughts of war, and in their stead the white sail of peace, amity, commerce, and good will shall gladden the hearts of all lovers of peace, and our ports of entry shall become haven to the flag of every nation, and no longer shall we fear the cannon shot or the motor exploding on our shores, for in their place we shall have on our land bail after bail, box after box, of commodities of all kinds to gladden and make bright the children of not only our land but of all lands who make these shores their home. These boats bring to us clothes to clothe us, food to feed us, raiments and adornments of all kinds, and as we continue to grow in wealth and power, luxuries of all kinds, none too good for us, and thus do we make all nations tributaries to our happiness and prosperity. The Orient on the West, Europe on the East, Canada on the North, Oceania on the South. Thus all lands in all climes from the cold regions of the Arctic, the burning suns of the Tropics, to the soothing winds of the Temperate Zone are made subservient to our wants.

Our harbors should, therefore, be open to the ships of all nations, for they no less than the immigrant bring to our shores vast treasures of wealth and add greatly to our commercial development, and if the closing of "the open door" to us of China was worthy of a declaration of war, what can be said of us, when we, by harsh and arbitrary navigation and innmigra-

tion laws, impose on foreign boat owners imprisonment, fines, and other penalties, thus preventing reciprocity and mutuality of commerce between these nations and ourselves?

This Organization seeks to prevent this unjust and uncalled for discrimination, pledges itself to cultivate at all times not only the friendship of the people of these nations, but also to encourage and by all honorable means aid in the passage of needful legislation looking to better and more amicable relationships between ourselves and these foreign nations.

A Free Press.

The freedom of the press, restricted alone by the provisions of our Constitution, has been one of the great forces in the preservation and safeguarding of our liberties. There are published in this country 17,641 newspapers in the English language, and 4,500 newspapers in foreign languages, the latter reaching 20,000,000 of readers not reached in our native language.

The great change in recent years of following the traditional past is due to these great papers. The people read and digest not only the news but the matters covered by these journals, so that today the individual enjoys greater latitude individually than ever before in the history of the world. The weak and unfortunate are no longer considered as a burden on the community meriting death and isolation, but the State and individual institutions rival with each other in an effort to allay the suffering and want of these unfortunates. The changes in the laws of health and sanitation and the submission to these by the people of the United States speak of an intelligence that equals the intelligence of the average voter as he casts his ballot for the one of his choice; the Constitution, while a limitation of power on the State and Nation, is made to give way to public opinion, and its amendment is had with no political or fractional strife—all this is due to the education of the people by the newspapers of the country, native and foreign.

Any attempt, and many such have been made in recent years, to suppress or control the privileges of the press must be fraught with danger, and all precautions should be taken to preserve this freedom, and for this purpose we invite the co-operation

of the press, and to accomplish this we ask every newspaper in the United States to become affiliated with us. We ask of them no fee or tax of any kind, but their co-operation with us in the work we are engaged in, and in consideration of this affiliation we stand ready at all times to aid and assist legally and financially any newspaper made to suffer because of the publication of any article brought within the purview of the Constitution of the United States.

Religious Freedom.

In no land is there allowed a greater latitude or more freedom to religion than in ours. We have no unity of Church and State. Yet religion has flourished, and in no country are there more steeples pointing to the canopy of heaven than in this Nation. All faiths, creeds, and form of worship are found here. It is only at times when some secret society following the tactics of those in Europe, who seek the destruction of religion and governments of all kinds, appear here as a patriotic body, daring not to publish the names of its officers, and also refusing the post-office authorities its place of publication in order that the Government may not suppress it. The object of its authors is to escape damages for its false and libelous articles. The object of the publication is to incite prejudice and produce discord among the various and numerous religious bodies of the United States. The leaders of these patriotic organizations live and thrive upon the credulity of ignorance, racial and religious prejudices. Like the raising of the red flag, the rancorous vaporings of these debauchers of religious tolerance excited the weak and unfortunates who rage and rave at all kind of religion, and in this frenzy destroy property and commit public plunder.

One of the objects of this organization is to destroy these venomous organizations, ascertain their home address and their official titles, the number and name of those who compose their roster, also those who contribute financially to their support.

We, as an organization, ask all other bodies, irrespective of beliefs, to join with us in perfecting this department of our society, whereby we may be able to take the proper action when it is found that the object of the publication of an article is to

injure the faith or belief of any denomination by false and malicious charges. These offenders must be brought to justice. Religious tolerance does not imply the privilege to speak falsely, excite by exaggeration or otherwise religious prejudices, but the right of each religious body to the protection of law, irrespective of the belief of those who may differ with it; and it shall be the duty of this organization to lend its good office in carrying out religious freedom as provided for in the Constitution.

That this work may be accomplished successfully, this organization will send to each individual member of the religious body a properly form letter for the member to prepare and send to the Congressman or Senator of his district; that the society as a body will collect these letters from their members after preparation and signature and have the same registered under our postal system in the local post-office with a request for the return to that body of the registry card prepared by the Government for the receipt of the addressee.

Right of Locomotion.

The right of locomotion of each individual citizen and inhabitant to move from one State to another is secured by the Constitution of the United States. We frequently read of cases where this privilege is denied. We find that some of the States, notably those in the South, absolutely refuse foreign-born citizens the right to settle there and have discriminated against them. The prejudices against the foreign born in many of these places is so hostile that justice can not be had for the loss of property and at times for the loss of life. The correspondence of our State Department with foreign governments is repleted with the story of these wrongs—in some cases mob violence was had and loss of life ensued. The States refused to acknowledge liability and the Government itself, rather than break treaty relations, stepped into the breach and paid the indemnity exacted for this outrage. A dispute is now pending before the Government in reference to the right of the States to pass laws preventing immigrants owning or holding real and personal property, whereas this privilege is secured in the treaty between us and the disputants. Another unfortunate illustration of this

is where a contractor is doing business in different States; his laborers and workmen have become accustomed to his work and are skilled in his calling; he moves them from one place to another; violence is had; one of his employees loses his life; he is the support of a wife and family waiting for passage money in a foreign land to join him here. This family can recover no compensation because of his death, and are reduced to poverty and want and become wards of charity. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has laid down the rule, "that aliens have no right to recover damages for the loss of life by virtue of her statutes," giving, however, the heirs and dependents of her citizens this right and granting none at all in favor of aliens. This discrimination does not only apply to case of loss of life and property alone, but to numerous other matters; this distinction is found in the law of inheritance, in the right to enter the professions, and those engaged in mercantile and other callings. The Constitution of the United States and its Fifteenth Amendment have been invoked against this contention, but without avail, the courts holding these are matters concerning the policy of the respective States and not of the Federal Government.

The hardships arising from these conditions are so frequent and burdensome that we feel that we can perform no greater duty than bringing about as speedily as possible changes in the State statutes and in the laws of the Federal Government remedying and altering this great discrimination between the native and foreign-born inhabitant of the United States.

We accordingly invite the attention of the representative governments credited to this Nation to this condition and ask their co-operation here in order that the proper legislation may be had, and where a conflict is found between the States and the Federal Government concerning the law applicable here, proper steps be taken to remedy this unjust and inequitable discrimination reflecting not only on the honor of the Nation but also on the States whose statutes so discriminate. To do this successfully, we would recommend to these governments that they place before us the names of their subjects so affected by this discrimination and all the circumstances attending the same,

not that we desire to officiate in any capacity here save alone as an *amicus curia*, in that we feel the good office of a friend of both disputants is always conducive to good results and the end to be attained here most commendable.

The Maintenance of the Constitution.

All governments exist by virtue of the governed; and when this condition ceases, staple government faces a serious crisis. Without some limitation or restriction, the governing power becomes the plaything of the governed. The revolution of one day gives place to another the next; and all wise nations have seen the necessity of weights and balances in way of agreements and constitutions with their subjects, and hence as the days advance, the nearer and nearer the governing and governed progress, and less and less the space of separation between them and the people and king soon become as one in the common cause for the betterment of all.

The original thirteen colonies recognized the common law of England as the text-book of judicial procedure and its definition of rights to be theirs. The King of England while a monarch, yet in the exercise of his stately power, was as limited as his humblest subject. He can make no law without his Parliament, nor can he spend a farthing without its permission.

Upon the severance of the ties that held us to England in 1776, when we declared ourselves a Nation, we too recognized the necessity of having some anchor of safety to weather a storm and created "The Confederation of States." But thirteen separate States, each claiming the same prerogatives as the other, led to confusion, and the right of the one to tax the industries of the other was denied. Our exports and imports had increased, and our foreign trade had so developed that shippers at home and abroad could not find vessels sufficient to meet with the demands of the day. Every vessel not only brought commodities, but also thousands and thousands of immigrants to develop our country, and our commerce called not for restriction, either of property or life, but on the contrary more liberality, more freedom—hence, the new Constitution was created vesting in the Federal Government the power to levy a tax

on imports and make commercial treaties with foreign nations. The regulation of boats, the right to enter our harbors, these and kindred questions that now agitate the country were then discussed and the means of accomplishing this purpose was placed by the Constitution in the Federal Government. So today this same instrument will solve all questions that may arise to disturb our present prosperity. The thirteen States under the Confederation could not individually make treaties, nor could they engage in any policy for the greater development of this Nation. The States could not have distributed the lands we acquired by treaty from Great Britain, France, Spain, and Texas. Nor can they today develop our great natural resources—these belong to the Nation.

We are a Republic, but a Constitutional one. Our forefathers were wiser than their day. They not only limited the power of the governed, but they created a tribunal, the Supreme Court of the United States, independent of the Executive and Legislative, to say what that Constitution means, and what are the powers of the Executive and Legislative bodies. Hand in hand have the court of last resort and the Constitution traveled for over a century without a break or misstep. The Constitution lives. Its limitations have been assailed—the right of the States to secede denied. The right of the States to grant monopolies of trade and commerce denied; the right of the State to give special privileges in the waters of the United States denied; the right of the States to give special favors in her industries denied; the right of the Executive to suspend the habeas corpus denied; the right of the Executive to invade the right of the legislative body denied; the right of Congress to invade the prerogatives of the Court denied. So as each hour has passed in our history, the Constitution has grown stronger and stronger, and its strength and its greatness and the wisdom of its makers was shown most clearly only recently when Congress, led on by an unorganized band of would-be leaders and by politicians who sought political gain, was willing for this purpose to destroy one of the great pillars of this Republic—the right of every one to make this land his home, when passion shall have subsided, and localism given place to nationality, and

religious rancor given place to quiet and calm—for it matters not how we worship or where we worship, if we really worship the Omnipotent—and when men shall cease to be selfish, and for selfishness forget those who made it possible for him to breathe the air of this free Republic, and by it be a Man, then, and only then, shall the sublimity and the greatness of the Constitution of the United States be revealed. It and it alone made it possible for ex-President William Howard Taft to veto the bill restricting immigration to these shores. The Senate in its great wisdom, in its mantle of solemnity, fades away before the Mandate of Taft—thus has the Constitution again stood against the floodgates of aroused passion and saved this Republic for its greater future and its continuing to be the haven of the oppressed of all nations.

So here we invite all patriotic bodies, political and otherwise, who would save the Constitution in all its purity to join with us in its perpetuation and in its safeguarding.

Liberal Land and Conservation Policy.

The growth of the great West is due solely to a liberal land policy, and one in its day was fought most strenuously by narrow-minded people and small statesmen. We had settled the greatest domestic war of all ages; our people were not warlike; our soldiers came from the farm, the workshop, the storeroom, these and the day laborers filled our armies. The world wondered what was to become of these vast armies so laying down their arms at Appomattox. This war was not a war of conquest, but one of principle—internal strife between brothers. The greatness of this Nation and its future was settled when the blue and gray clasped hands in good fellowship and started home. A homestead, 160 acres, was their's if they wished—the most fertile fields, virgin soil was within their grasp. Mines, the richest in the world, were open to the prospector, and not a mountain nor a peak escaped him. Like the bee, these industrious men labored night and day, and the isolated mountain became a beehive, and from the rocked earth he drew the richest treasures, and we became the greatest producers of gold and silver in the world. The cost of the war was forgotten; its

bitter memory soon buried in the rebuilding of the South, and the settling of the West. Thus we became the most powerful Nation of the world. We were the first with the rail to span the continent, and the world was appalled. Great States rose on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. These States were covered by foreigners; they came in droves; they dug the canals, deepened the rivers, built the railroads, and before their monthly pay-day had arrived they had purchased land, and made application for homestead of 160 acres of land, and these pioneers, these foreigners, and their descendants now hold these lands. Millions upon millions of acres were granted to the railroads by the Government, yet no complaints were heard. It was the building up of a continent where once was a wilderness. Why is this work of development now stopped? Why this cry of restricted immigration? Why this demand to withhold the Nation's resources? Why the withdrawal from actual use these millions upon millions, nay billions, of acres, and some of this the best agricultural, grazing, mineral, coal, and iron lands? Here are some of the richest mines of the world. yet all these are withheld from public use. Why this change of policy? Who can answer? None. The only answer is the same as that made by those who opposed the homestead laws in the sixties. "Preserve them for future generations—the gigantic grants will attract Europe and foreigners will come here—they did." With this bountiful generosity there also arrived here "a big man" and with him came the forces that brought out of the wilderness a new Empire, and no longer a condition or theory confronted us, but new States and a new Empire with millions and millions of inhabitants. So here today let us place these acres upon the market open to the home-seekers, whether it be native or foreign born. Allow the prospector to take his pick and shovel and pierce the rocks of these undiscovered treasures, and let the rivers that now run uncontrolled be harnessed, and these waters so held that their arid banks in the adjoining slopes will produce millions upon millions of fertile lands.

Let the States that have not sold the lands donated by the Government reconvey them or adopt a policy of unity of action, whereby a general land policy shall be adopted, and by joint

policy will the happiness of the millions be conserved, and whose lives are yearly sacrifices in congested districts at home and abroad. So, too, with the great railroads, let them join in this policy and let the Government devise the best plan for the immediate use of these billions of unoccupied and undeveloped lands and the streams passing through them. So here this Organization invites the Government, the States, and the railroads to get together and unite upon a common plan whereby the policy that developed this Nation to its greatest growth will be pursued. The time is opportune; only a few months ago the cry was raised that to open the postal banks the finance of the Nation would suffer; the fallacy is seen that the deposits of our banks have not decreased, but on the contrary have increased, and the Government deposits are now in the millions. This money should be loaned out by the Government to the people ready to make settlement and develop these lands, mines, rivers, and other natural resources, thereby increasing the wealth and population of the Nation and opening our doors to all foreigners desiring to come here, and aid in this development, and conserving the interest of all the people of the United States.

We also recommend the affiliation with us of the railroad lands, colonization and development companies engaged in the actual development of the resources of this country in its various sections. Also seek to have connected with us all bodies, civic and otherwise, who seek the dissemination of immigration, and placing these immigrants in the most desirable location, conducive to their moral and financial interest.

For the greater success of this object we will keep in touch with the various departments of the General Government, as well with the States and our new possessions, and we would recommend to the railroads and other large holders of land the listing with us of these and such other opportunities as they have to offer, together with detailed information and inducements as they desire to offer new settlers so that we may be ready to lay before these civic bodies seeking this information full knowledge and accurate statements of the true conditions that face these newcomers who seek new homes.

No Restriction of Immigration Save Alone in the Cause of Public Health, Morality, and the Safety of the Nation.

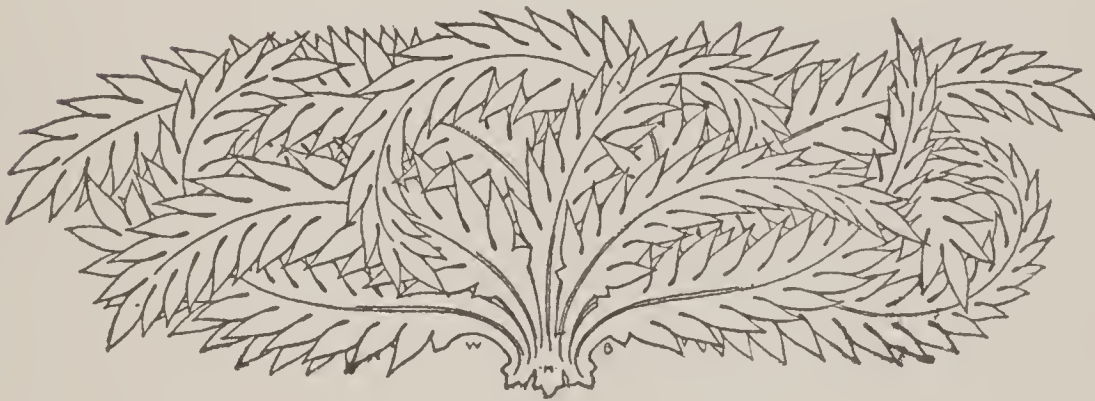
It has been seen from quotations already cited that we are but slightly removed from all being immigrants, and that even a literary test is not essential as a qualification for the admission of foreigners to our shores. The comment of President Eliot of Harvard University disarms the charge that those who seek the admission of illiterates are themselves illiterate. The sage of Bonny Scotland, Andrew Carnegie, a foreigner coming from the ranks of the humblest, pleads for these illiterates, and in speaking of these lands says, "Where one man's privilege is every man's right." He, scant in knowledge, untrained in the niceties of education, has placed the lamp of knowledge upon the table of the humblest and lowest in our land. His love for the unfortunate, his desire to educate this same class in every part of this land, speaks from the heart—its pulsation from a consciousness that fears not—this fearlessness was happily expressed by his beloved Burns: "A man is a man for a' that." Surely no appeal can be greater than his. Joining in unison and in brotherly accord, is the voice of him, good shepherd that he is, faithful to his flock, but equally grand and noble is his patriotism for his country, his love of its citizens unexcelled by none, and whose piety and saintliness is known far and wide—Cardinal Gibbons proclaimed the words in behalf of these illiterates when he said, "What we want is industry and thrift."

So here nothing can we add to this great plea in favor of unrestricted immigration better than the language of the great editor, Ira E. Bennett, as he pictures the immigrant as he approaches Ellis Island, "Shall we destroy the spirit of the Statue of Liberty in the Harbor of New York, which, to immigrants catching their first sight of America, symbolizes the land of freedom, equality, and democracy?"

In the last Congress, through the veto of President Taft, the spirit of liberty was not only saved but a death blow was meted out to those who would destroy American institutions and deny the right of asylum to the oppressed of other lands. Again a new effort is to be made, as is shown by the introduction in the House of Representatives, April 8, 1913, House bill 1958, restrict-

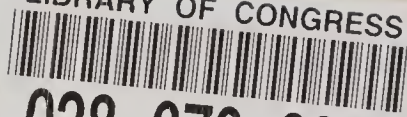
ing immigration by Congressman Roddenbery, with like provisions as condemned by President Taft. A like bill was introduced in the Senate of the United States April 7, 1913, Senate bill 50, by Senator Overman.

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.” So here we appeal to all fair-minded men and women at home and abroad to join with us in the cause we espouse here and become affiliated with us, for the principles we seek here will live and survive long after the members of this Organization shall have passed away. For as we go to the beyond, others will rally to the cause, and the Republic, together with its Constitution, will stand and live for all time.



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